



BASIC WORK PLATFORM SAFETYADVISORY

Various types of work platforms are used on our project sites on a daily basis. When used correctly they can provide a ***“SAFE MEANS OF ACCESS”***. Prior to selecting an appropriate work platform we first need to review the scope of work such as anticipated working heights, duration of the work, materials or equipment needed to accomplish the task, location/size of the work space, provision for safety, fall protection, etc. Then we need to identify the anticipated hazards such as falling from the work platform during egress or ingress, falling from the working level on the work platform component or structure failure, electrical shock, etc. and select an appropriate work platform that will provide ***“SAFE ACCESS”***. Finally, the controls are being implemented and supervision provided.





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**The most common types of work platforms found on our project site
type scaffolds and elevated work platforms (i.e., Manlifts or Scissors)**





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“Safety” does not end once you select the type of work platform to be used at the project site. The following are some of the basic items to look for with work platforms on our project sites:

- Does the Activity Hazard Analysis (AHA)/ORM address work in elevated areas and provisions for access and fall protection?**
- Are the controls being implemented to abate or minimize the anticipated hazards?**
- Does the work site have adequate supervision to ensure the controls are being implemented on the project site?**
- Does the work site have designated Competent Personnel (CP) for the erection, dismantling, moving, or alteration of work platforms?**



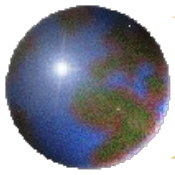


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- Safe access shall be provided for work platform. The climbing between the top and mid rails or egress is considered to be a unsafe practice.
- Working levels shall be fully decked or planked.
- Does the work platform have a safe means of access such as a ladder, external or internal stairway?
- Are personnel operating manlifts or scissors designated qualified operators?
- Does the KTR have documentation/record of daily checks/tests of the various work platform in accordance with manufacture specification or manual?

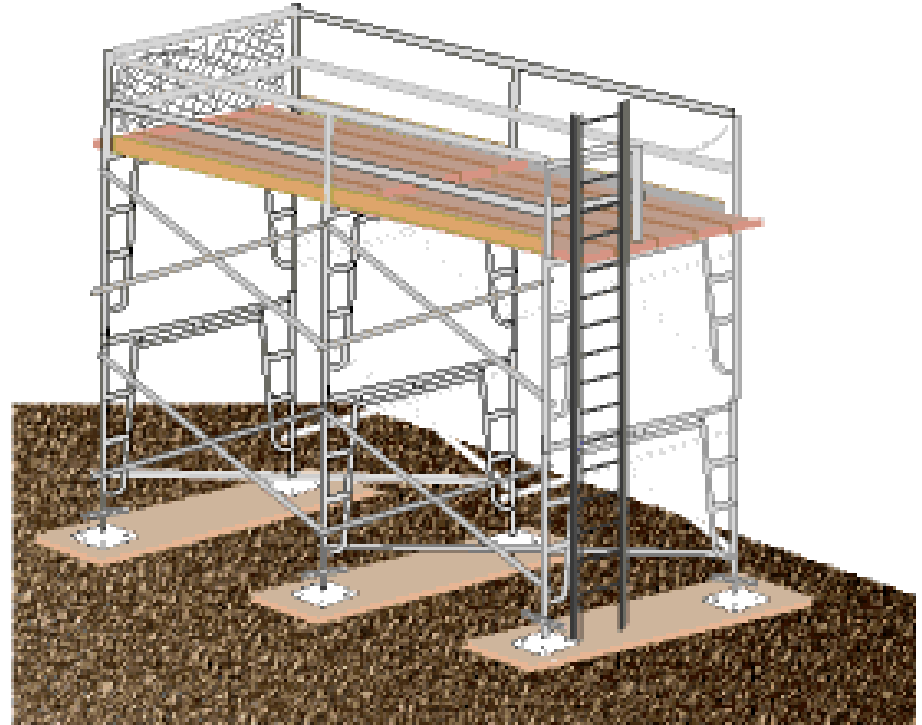
Gradall and front end loader are supporting the manlift from tipping over.

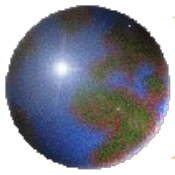




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- ❖ **Fabricated frame scaffolds are the most common type of scaffold because they are versatile, economical, and easy to use**
- ❖ **Note access ladder and frame opening with chain for safe access and egress from platform**

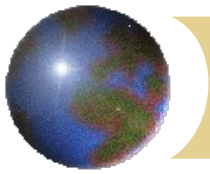




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- ✚ **Scaffold
Access Gate**
- ✚ **Access area
at entrance
needs to be
clear and
unobstructed**





Frame Scaffold - OSHA Interpretation Letter

February 6, 1997

Mr. R. B. Jacobsen

Assistant Manager Safety

Raytheon Constructors Inc.

P.O. Box 8223

Philadelphia, PA 19101-8223

Dear Mr. Jacobsen:

This is in response to your telefax of October 22, regarding the applicability of an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) letter of interpretation (dated April 7, 1987) concerning **"equivalent safe access"** (see section 1926.451(a)(13) of the old standard) as it relates to scaffolds, in light of the recently revised standard for scaffolds used in the construction industry (61 FR 46026).

As you know, section 1926.451(e) of the revised standard addresses the requirements for access to scaffolds. The revised standard no longer uses the term "equivalent safe access," nor does it explicitly address the matter of climbing over or through guardrails as constituting unsafe access. Unobstructed access to the platform is an important component of safe access and therefore, OSHA recommends that provisions for safe access be made in all guardrail systems. Moreover, **the practice of climbing over or through guardrails is widely regarded by the industry to be hazardous**, when particular circumstances on a jobsite make clear the existence of a serious hazard, **OSHA would consider issuing a Citation under the General Duty Clause of the OSH Act.**



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- Is the planking extended over their end supports not less than 6 inches (unless planking is manufactured with retaining hooks or equivalent means) nor more than 12 inches?
- Does the work platform have base plates and sills that would provide adequate foundation?
- Are the work platforms plumb and level?
Note: Refer to manufacture specifications or operator's manual for maximum slope for manlifts or scissors lifts.
- Does the work site have the manufacture instructions/owner's manual for the various work platforms onsite?
- Refer to COE EM 385-1-1 Section 21 and

